Tuesday May 30, 2017

HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

SNP pledges on austerity and Brexit
 Apology to voters in fight for just three seats

# Corbyn vows to listen on second poll bid

**MICHAEL SETTLE** 

JEREMY Corbyn has been given before a second poll on the accused by the Conservatives of offering a "sweetheart deal" to signalled the PM's intent not to Nicola Sturgeon after saying he facilitate a plebiscite in the next would "open discussions" with parliament which means until her about a second Scottish after 2022 at the earliest. independence referendum if he

The Labour leader's remarks Labour victory was unlikely, the came after Theresa May suggested SNP leader, noting how she would the First Minister would "pull the be launching her party's manifesto strings" in any minority Labour on Tuesday, told Sky News: "If government and demand, as the there is any chance of a progresprice for propping it up, a second sive alliance that locks the Tories vote on the Union

warning David Cameron made It is believed top of her wish-list two years ago when Tory election posters showed the then Nationalist leader Alex Salmond as pendence referendum puppet-master to Ed Miliband. Conservative HQ believes the enham, a Tory marginal, Mrs May tactic helped the Tories over the mocked Ms Sturgeon. To laughter line in 2015, confounding the pollsters to win a majority. Mr Corbyn has sought not to didn't think Jeremy Corbyn was

repeat what commentators capable of being prime minister believed was his predecessor's electoral mistake of taking weeks to rule out any kind of coalition or pact with the SNP should there be a hung parliament.

election to win. Only Labour or **what the Scottish** the Tories can win this election and voting Labour is the only way to remove Theresa May from But later the Labour leader was

"There will be no deals. There will

be no alliance. We're fighting this

pressed on what would happen if him into government. he ended up in Number 10 and Ms on Scotland's future.

government in Scotland and listen very carefully to what the Scottish Parliament says.

"I would ask them to think very carefully about it and suggest it protect manufacturing and service iobs all across the UK.

Parliament mandated Ms Sturgeon to seek a parliamentary the way of the demand. But Mrs May insisted now was "not the second independence referentime" to hold another independ- dum," he added

ence vote given the Brexit talks were about to begin while the Tory manifesto talked of the withdrawal process needing to be "played out" and public consent Union could take place. This

While Ms Sturgeon stressed the 'reality" of the election meant a out, I would want to get as much of This is the same campaign the SNP manifesto implemented

> would be holding a second inde-On the campaign trail in Twickfrom party activists, she said: "I believe she said vesterday she

I'll open discussions with the government and listen carefully to **Parliament says** 

she would prop him up and push Meantime, Ruth Davidson Sturgeon demanded another vote claimed the SNP leader was "desperate for a second referen Mr Corbyn replied: "I'll obvidum" and suggested it "looks like The Scottish Conservative leader said: "Nicola Sturgeon has said she'd put Jeremy Corbyn into Number 10. Now Jeremy Corbyn says he is happy to 'open discus-

would be much better to have this sions' with her about a second question dealt with at the conclu-referendum. Labour voters in sion of what are very serious and Scotland now know Ieremy very important Brexit negotia- Corbyn would sell them down the tions, where I am utterly deter- river. I will never fold against mined to achieve tariff-free trade 
Nicola Sturgeon's demand for a access to the European markets to second referendum. It is clearer than ever only by voting Scottish Conservatives can we send her a In March after the Scottish message to take it off the table. As Tory HQ seized on Mr discussions" about a second inde enabling a second referendum on pendence referendum, a Labour independence to take place, the spokesman said the party leader Labour leadership was clear would have talks with SNP minis-Westminster should not stand in ters "about all Scottish issues". "Labour firmly opposes a



a ceramic store in the capital's Marchmont area. Picture: Gordon Terris



**NICOLA** STURGEON The First a firm grip or baby Olly Firth while visitina eader Angus Robertson.





## **Constituency profile:** East Renfrewshire



**BRAIDEN** 

BLAIR McDougall can stake a claim to be the man who saved The pro-Union Better Togethe

needed to bury the Scottish independence clamour for a And his beloved Labour Party, an organisation he has been immersed in for his entire adult life, paid a heavy price for its association with the Tories. But it was touch and go as the vote loomed, the No side won

and Mr McDougall, as the Better Together campaign director, can claim credit for that. One of the most prominent background figures in Scots, if not UK, politics, he is on the

victory was not by the margin

frontline now, contesting his nome constituency of East Renfrewshire, the archetypal New Labour area held by friend and former boss Jim Murphy for the best part of two decades. It was a solid No area in 2014

McDougall to capitalise on an election narrative where referenda again hang heavy. But he has a problem. A 31-year-old, who only joined the Conservatives less than two vears ago. Paul Masterton was driven by fears over constitutional uncertainty and is

tipped as the potential favourite This must bug Mr McDougall? "In a crowded marketplace of sending Nicola Sturgeon a message there's a clear choice between an albeit very nice lad from Paisley or the person who ran the No campaign in 2014 to

and pro-Remain in 2016, ideal, one would imagine, for Mr

> do that," he says. "The Tory relevance. For an irrelevance they're talking about me an awful lot. All things being equal I need one in four of their votes to win." East Renfrewshire was arguably the biggest shock of

> > the SNP's 2015 landslide with

Jim Murphy losing to unknown Leave voters are likely to stay at SNP rookie Kirsten Oswald Between 2010 and 2015 the SNP surged from third-place also-rans to a victory over the then Scottish Labour leader by several thousand votes The result also exposed other

local dynamics. Far from its reputation as one of Scotland's most prosperous areas, where New Labour tussles with the Tories, "East Ren" has swathes of middle-earning and public sector workers paying over-theodds mortgages to give their children access to some of the country's best schools and a life in Glasgow's better suburbs. Mr McDougall insists it is this

suffer from incumbency and most surprisingly, the margina Yes voters, are desperate to move on. Lots of this area would have had real-terms pay cuts. People's income comes up time and again. For an area considered very affluent a lot of people are just clinging on. "It's an area of high house prices, nice schools and lovely

home but I'm picking up a lot the

service and education and who

"The SNP is beginning to

public sector workers

are certainly not Tories.

disillusioned with the health

where a lot of people struggle demographic and not just the Directly across the road from constitutionally concerned who Mr McDougall's campaign HQ Kirsten Oswald is running her could return the area to Labour. "Firstly, the SNP vote is down. That surge and enthusiasm has A scrap for the Unionist vote is dissipated," he says. "The SNP/ no bad thing for the former

#### college HR manager, allowing ner to come up tnrougn tne middle. But colleagues describe Candidates for 2017 her as diligent and in two years

at Westminster has a reputation

Brexit, Ms Oswald insists, is a

doorstep issue. The area attracts

impact of withdrawal from the EU

many overseas nationals, with

and, she says, noises coming

from a Conservative Party fast

making inroads into Ukip's vote.

position on the EU, on refugees

resonating on the doorstep and

people want a strong voice for

Westminster. They appreciate

years. They want someone

listening to them, responding.

She has championed local

campaigns, including military

what we've done in the past two

Scotland being heard at

she says. "The message is

"Voters recognise our obvious

worries mounting over the

for a constituency focus.

Kirsten Oswald (Scottish National Party) Kirsten Oswald (SNP) Jim Murphy (Labour) 19,295 David Montgomery (Con) Graeme Cowie (Lib Dem)

Aileen Morton (Liberal Democrat)

Paul Masterton (Conservative)

Blair McDougall (Labour)

Robert Malyn (UKIP)

a miscarriage of justice the refusal of the Home Office to allow Church of Scotland representatives from overseas

Lawyers drop

veterans suffering rare forms o cancer, a local man considered languishing in an Indian iail and

entry to the UK.

a constituency of people with strong religious faith. Meanwhile Mr Masterton is a strong believer in having a Government voice as a local representative. The big driver, he sees on the campaign stump, is

has a larger Muslim population and growing Catholic middle

class, which recently migrated

from Glasgow's south side.

able to stick up for religious

important in this community. It's

communities and that's

'This is a two-horse race. And I can't quite work out if Blair McDougall thinks he's a horse or not," says the solicitor. "He's a name that's only of interest to those in the Scottish political

Surely sum mistake

HE'S back! Jim Murphy has

risen from the losers' crypt

and the SNP?

he's absolutely no chance. "It's myself versus Kirsten and its going to be tight." The Tories had a good local election last month, becoming

Mackintosh both lost and they

local profile than Blair so I think

had a much higher personal

the biggest party on the council but forced into opposition by an SNP/Labour coalition. Mr Masterton added: "The people of East Renfrewshire could benefit from having an MI on the Government benches with more direct links into areas of rnment where we can get

stopping the SNP "in its tracks". ings done. We'd have an MP to challenge the SNP and Labourrun council, someone to help keep the tax burden as low as possible, to keep the City Deal on track and to be more available, visible and accessible than previous representatives."

Synonymous with its Jewish bubble. Jim Murphy and Ken

# Harvie says sorry for lack of Green candidates

**TOM GORDON** 

THE Scottish Greens have apologised to the tens of thousands of supporters denied a chance to vote for them. Launching the party's manifesto, co-convener Patrick Harvie said he was "sorry" to Green voters around the country who

their constituency The party is standing in juthree of Scotland's 59 Westmin ster seats - Falkirk, Edinburgh North & Leith and Glasgow North, where Mr Harvie is the

like 95 per cent of the electorate.

did not have a Green candidate in

After putting up 31 candidates in 2015 and withholding funds this year from every seat except Glasgow North, the pro-independstanding back to help the SNP. The party denies this and says it lacks the money to do more.

At a cafe in Glasgow, Mr Harvie focused" to give Scotland the best chance of electing a Green MP. He said: "I'm sorry to many Green voters around the country who don't have a chance to vote Green and I know many of them nave been coming down to help in Edinburgh North and Leith, in Glasgow, and in Falkirk, where we

are able to stand candidates.' He said people should "challenge all their candidates on the issues most important to them" in the seats without a Green option. Mr Harvie said: "For some people, the issue of climate change will be top of the list of priorities For others, it might be nuclear policy and the harm that is being nflicted on some of the most



Lorna Slater the Scottish eith. with n Glasgow. Picture:

candidates and judge them as

The manifesto backs a second independence referendum to give Scots an alternative to a "hard Brexit UK", and says Green MPs would continue to push for free dom of movement and the retentions of European Union environmental regulations outside the EU.

The manifesto said 200,000 new jobs in Scotland come from a low carbon economy centred on renewables, energy efficiency and oil industry decomn the North Sea. The other Green candidates are Lorna Slater in Edinburgh North

were "pathetic" and wanted "to

For some, the issue of climate change will be top of the priorities. **Put all of those issues** 

environment spokeswoman

SNP" and should have launched their manifesto today alongsid the Nationalists.

Future films to accuse the SNP of

and Leith and Debra Pickering in Tory environment spokesman Maurice Golden said the Greens

help the SNP cling on to as many

Willie Rennie dressed as Marty McFly from the Back To The

Posing by a DeLorean car in lighted a new SNP postcard show ing the £1.3 billion Queensferry Crossing and the slogan Building A Better Scotland.

In its 2016 Holyrood manifest the SNP said the bridge was "on time and on budget". It is now du to open around eight months late Mr Rennie said it was a prim example of how the SNP over promised and under-delivered.

Appealing for tactical votes from Tory and LibDem support ers. Scottish Labour launched a new online advert claiming only they could stop the SNP next

Ian Murray, Labour's candidat

in Edinburgh South, said: "The Tories just aren't at the races – and a vote for them or the LibDems will just let the SNP back in."

## Sturgeon launches manifesto with vows on austerity, Brexit and Scotland's future

NICOLA STURGEON will today put pledges on austerity, Brexit and Scotland's future at the heart of the SNP's manifesto launch

vulnerable people in society.

"For others, it will be Scotland"

ability to choose its own future.

the First Minister will sav a vote for SNP MPs will give Scotland a strong voice to resist Tory cuts, strengthen Scotland's hand in Brexit negotiations, and "protect Scotland's right to make its own decisions". Despite a recent narrowing in the polls, she will say the Tories "are still on course to

win the election" and only her

Ukip leader would

take anything off the table" to

"When you read there's a

safe, whether that is a return to

deal with violent extremism

back internment

**Election News** Brief

deeper cuts. She said: "If the SNP wins this election, it will strengther the country's hand when it comes to opposing cuts. defending our place in Europe,

Addressing activists in Perth, and on choosing our future as a nation. However the pledge on Brexit appears to have been watered down since mid-May when Ms Sturgeon said a vote for the SNP would force the UK to include the Scottish Government "at the Brexit negotiating table and make the case for Scotland's place in the

left Labour's Tracy Brabin, a

friend of Mrs Cox, shocked

Mother-of-two Mrs Cox, 41,

was shot and stabbed by neo-Nazi

Thomas Mair in her Batley and

Spen constituency days before

last year's EU referendum.

single market"

party offers protection against Prime Minister Theresa May swiftly rejected the idea and Ms Sturgeon now says a vote for the SNP will ensure Scotland is "heard at the top table".

> The Tories and Labour will use the launch to turn the spotlight on the SNP's record. Tory leader Ruth Davidson will publish plans to improve school standards and "reset" the Curriculum for Excellence demanding Ms Sturgeon focus on "education, not separation" Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale will also publish a dossier highlighting what she

called the SNP's "decade of

Carlaw sets target

for 12 Scottish seats

THE Scottish Tory deputy leader

party could win six to 12 Scottish

Jackson Carlaw said there has

been a "change in atmosphere" as

he insisted there are several seat

said it would be "great" if his

seats in the General Election.

## May accused of being a 'blowhard

## **Continued from Page 1**

Labour's plan for "managed migration" it would not go up but would "probably" come down from its current level of around 250,000. He stressed how the contribution to living standards by migrant workers was "huge"

Under her own questioning

from Mr Paxman, the Prime Minister insisted she was determined to do the right thing for the country, referring to her reputation as a "bloody difficult woman". "We need to have a government that is open about these things and is willing to find ways of address-

"If in order to address them and do the right thing by the country, it takes being a difficult woman then that's exactly what I will be." Mrs May also reaffirmed that she would walk away from the Brexit negotiations without a deal rather than accept a "bad" deal. "In negotiations, you have to recognise you're not in there to get a deal at any price."

# Jezza avoids a stuffing from Paxo but PM is in line of fire as grand inquisitor finally wakes up



with him, he would not debate without her, and so it came to this: a joint but separate stuffing by Paxo. Turkeys voting for Christmas or what? Ah, but some wondered if

SHE would not share a stage

Jeremy Paxman was these days more butter knife than carving fork. Sure. he had once kebabed David Cameron on food banks and basted Ed Miliband as a "north London geek", but that was two years and one General Election ago. Now the erstwhile Ron Burgundy on steroids was facing Theresa "Vicar's daughter/National Trust member" May, and Jeremy

Corbyn, whose hobby is



in Paxo being bored to death. Before going head to head with the stuffer-in-chief, each leader had to face the studio audience. Confronted with Corbyn, they seemed quite pleasantly surprised that he did not have a forked tail. Leaning jauntily on the podium, the Labour leader looked as if he had just popped in for a cheeky red. Sinn Fein, nukes, taxes, migration: Jezza just wanted to photographing manhole covers. buy the world a drink and teach The only danger here, surely, lay it to sing in perfect harmony.



JEREMY CORBYN: Helped to adjust Paxman's tie before event.

Next up, Paxman v Corbyn. The former Newsnight anchor started off at 11 on the harumphometer and stayed there. His line of attack was that Mr Corbyn had not been radical enough. "There's nothing in here about getting rid of the monarchy!" puffed Paxman. "It's not in there because we are not going to do it," trilled Jezza, who added that some of his best friends were constitutional monarchs. Not much of a glove

like Jezza, but the audience was not having it. If Nicola Sturgeon's nightmare was a nurse, Mrs May's was a mother of two concerned about school funding in England. And Paxman was no dream boat either. Accusing her of changing her position with the wind, whether on care costs or holding a General Election, what would they be thinking in Brussels, barked Lieutenant Paxman of

laughter and applause. Paxman, like the punters, had woken up, but time had run out. With a final thanks to the PM, the audience applauded. Someone got to his feet to cheer Mrs May Or maybe it was Paxman he was saluting. In any case, he

the Third Armchair Generals

collapses at the first sign of

gunfire!" he ventured. Cue

Brigade. "She's a blowhard who

#### No flinching from May left struggling radical policies as



cuts. Worse, she was laughed

at repeatedly. More authority

drained away as Mr Paxman

raised her multiple U-turns.

WINNER: Jeremy Corbyn

CORBYN gave one of his best performances handling

Mrs May was less at ease as a series of public service workers criticised her over

**STEWART PATERSON** THE Labour leader provided answers to all

asked and got questions are being asked may Labour chief.

#### as Labour leader with a royal reply as PM ill-at-ease airs key messages **MICHAEL SETTLE UK POLITICAL EDITOR**

.IFREMY CORBYN relaxed. He seemed most

appeared for the most part calm and uncomfortable answering questions about his "oper support" for the IRA When Paxman tried to upend the Labour leader on his

republicanism, Mr Corbyn

## legal ruling bid Paxman disarmed over Brexit CASE

have dropped their legal challenge in Ireland on whether Brexit is Papers were lodged in the High Court in Dublin earlier this year in an attempt to seek a ruling on the

But Jolyon Maugham, QC, director of the Good Law Project, said the length of time the challenge will take and costs involved have forced them to ditch it. Some £70,000 raised through crowd-funding for the case will be

spent on legal fees incurred, with whatever is left over going to other Brexit challenges or charity. "Along with the other plaintiffs

# to back Labour in East A LAWYER and three politicians

was even smaller, Jim Smoke screen issue from the European Court of

LibDem boss posed by a DeLorean as a special effect was ignited. As he and the car appeared to go up in smoke, "That's just like your career,

Federalists in 2008 he not included on his

# **POLITICS DIARY**

of the stunt. Mr Cole-Hamilton please note, is chairman of the party's General Election

### Hidden past THIS was all in Edinburgh

Giugliano also has some retro views, it seems. As vice-president of the Young European holding on to the pound" Curiously, that is an insight

#### UKIP leader Paul Nuttall has suggested he would be prepared to back the detention without trial of suspected terrorists. Mr Nuttall said he "wouldn"

suspected 23,000 jihadis living Cole-Hamilton on the sidelines among us, obviously MI5 are stretched to capacity," he told BBC1's The Andrew Neil Interviews. "We've got to look at

### return to internment West, where the SNP's Toni

wonderful.

## contesting murdered MP Jo Cox's

A CONSERVATIVE candidate former seat blamed a "tiring day" for telling a hustings: "We've not yet shot anybody so that's

with a "very strong prospect" of a Conservative victory. If the Conservatives win 12 Scottish constituencies on June 8 it would be the party's best resul

for more than three decades.

#### May joins Goldsmith on voters' doorsteps THERESA May and husband Philip have been knocking on

doors with Zac Goldsmith in a

bid to win back the seat he lost

Mr Goldsmith, the Tories failed London mayoral candidate triggered a by-election in Richmond Park, resigning and standing as an independent over Heathrow expansion. He lost the

COMMENT AT HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

## The Verdict How they compare

Corbyn stays calm

audience questions calmly and confidently and, unlike Theresa May on social care, never flinching from his own radical policies. Some lines, like the listening leader, were clearly pre-cooked, but delivered well However, he looked weak on the Falklands and defence of

the questions his key messages out. On his supposed weak points, security and the IRA Jeremy Corbyn provided explanations but the fact the still prove a difficulty for the

Theresa May was under pressure on schools funding in England and had to admit police numbers had fallen and would not say they would be She struggled on the cap on social care, unable to put

a figure on it. WINNER: Jeremy Corbyn

cheerfully said getting rid of the monarch was not in the manifesto and he had had a cordial meeting with the Queen May looked far more ill-atease. Asked about the dreaded "dementia tax" the Prime Minister negotiated the difficult

issue well and was strongest on Brexit. WINNER: Jeremy Corbyi

#### have taken stock of progress made on the Dublin case, its prospects going forward and changes n the wider political setting," he said. "With regret, we have agreed between us and with Ireland that the litigation should be

#### Renfrewshire. In a letter to voters, Jim bleats "I lost narrowly" in 2015. In fact, so beloved was he, he held the SNP to its "smallest majority in the country". Unless you

count the four seats where it

#### WILLIE Rennie was in South Queensferry yesterday for a photo opportunity based on the Back To The Future movies. (Don't ask. It's an election.) Dressed as Marty McFly the

Left in the dark

#### TO complete his look, Mr Rennie flipped down a pair of sunglasses. "These are all grubby, I can't see out them," he moaned. He wasn't alone in the dark however. "Er, what's this about?" asked a puzzled Alex

### declared Gordon Brown's biggest career mistake was not joining the euro and "not a single argument stands for

COMMENT AT HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

# in Cox constituency

Ann Myatt has apologised for

ways of ensuring our people are control orders, tagging, ... maybe a Sorry for 'shot' remark Salmond's suffering

## FORMER first minister Alex

Salmond is campaigning through the pain barrier as he bids to retain his seat at Westminster. Mr Salmond said he had been in agony" after cracking a rib after falling over while taking a penalty kick at an Aberdeenshire gala day. seat to LibDem Sarah Olney.